

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the claims, please cancel claim 11 and amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A modified RNA comprising: a functional group post-synthetically linked to an RNA via a labile bond wherein said functional group enhances delivery of said RNA to a mammalian cell and wherein said RNA is selected from the group consisting of siRNA and microRNA.
- 2-3. (canceled)
4. (previously presented) The modified RNA of claim 1 wherein the functional group is linked to a ribose 2' hydroxyl of the RNA.
5. (previously presented) The modified RNA of claim 1 wherein the functional group is selected from the list consisting of: hydrophobic group, membrane active compound, cell penetrating compound, cell targeting signal, interaction modifier, and steric stabilizer.
6. (previously presented) The modified RNA of claim 4 wherein the RNA is modified at: a single ribose 2' hydroxyl of the RNA, more than one but not all of the ribose 2' hydroxyls of the RNA, or all of the ribose 2' hydroxyls of the RNA.
7. (previously presented) The modified RNA of claim 1 wherein the modified RNA consists of a silylated RNA.
8. (previously presented) The modified RNA of claim 1 wherein the modified RNA consists of an acylated RNA.
9. (previously presented) The modified RNA of claim 1 wherein the modified RNA consists of an alkylated RNA.
10. (previously presented) The modified RNA of claim 1 wherein the modified RNA is associated with a transfection agent.
11. (canceled)
12. (previously presented) The mammalian cell of claim 1 wherein the mammalian cell consists of: an *in vivo* mammalian cell or an *in vitro* mammalian cell.
13. (previously presented) The modified RNA of claim 1 wherein the modified RNA is more resistant to nucleases than the RNA if it were not linked to the functional group.

14. (previously presented) The modified RNA of claim 1 wherein a plurality of functional groups are attached to said RNA via labile bonds.